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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

22850

7590

02/11/2011

OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, L.L.P.
1940 DUKE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, NGOC YEN M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1734

DATE MAILED: 02/11/2011

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/593,312	06/28/2007	Yoichi Mori	295693USOPCT	7005

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TREATING GAS CONTAINING FLOURINE-CONTAINING COMPOUNDS

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	05/11/2011

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. **PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.** THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN **THREE MONTHS** FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. **THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.** SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issued on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail** **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**
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INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

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Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

22850 7590 02/11/2011

OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, L.L.P.
1940 DUKE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

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Whereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/593,312 06/28/2007 Yoichi Mori 295693US0PCT 7005

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TREATING GAS CONTAINING FLOURINE-CONTAINING COMPOUNDS

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	05/11/2011

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
NGUYEN, NGOC YEN M	1734	423-245300

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a **Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1
(2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2
3

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY AND STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. **Change in Entity Status** (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____
Typed or printed name _____ Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.**

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			NGUYEN, NGOC YEN M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

1734

DATE MAILED: 02/11/2011

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 523 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 523 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability**Application No.**

10/593,312

Examiner

Ngoc-Yen M. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

MORI ET AL.

Art Unit

1734

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to November 18, 2010.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,5,11,14 and 19.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date ____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ms. Onoe Yuki (Registration # L0073) on January 31, 2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A method of treating a gas containing a fluorine-containing compound, comprising:

contacting a gas including at least one fluorine-containing compound with a treatment agent at a temperature of 550 to 850°C,

wherein the at least one fluorine-containing compound comprises at least one of a fluorinated hydrocarbon and a perfluoro compound, the treatment agent comprises an agglomerate including calcium hydroxide particles attached to surfaces of aluminum hydroxide particles, the calcium hydroxide particles have a particle diameter of 3-10 μm , and the aluminum hydroxide particles have a particle diameter of 50-100 μm .

Claim 2 (currently amended): A method of decontaminating a gas, comprising:

adding oxygen to a gas including (a) at least one of a fluorinated hydrocarbon and a perfluoro compound and (b) at least one of CO and a compound that produces CO during a decontamination of the gas; and

contacting said gas with a treatment agent at a temperature of 550 to 850°C to produce calcium fluoride,

wherein the treatment agent comprises an agglomerate including calcium hydroxide particles attached to surfaces of aluminum hydroxide particles, the calcium hydroxide particles have a particle diameter of 3-10 μm , and the aluminum hydroxide particles have a particle diameter of 50-100 μm .

Claims 3-4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): A method of treating a gas including a fluorine-containing compound, comprising:

contacting a gas including at least one fluorine-containing compound with a treatment agent at a first temperature of 500 to 700°C; and

contacting the gas, treated at the first temperature, with the treatment agent at a second temperature of 650 to 800°C,

wherein the at least one fluorine-containing compound comprises at least one of a fluorinated hydrocarbon and a perfluoro compound, said treatment agent comprises an agglomerate including calcium hydroxide particles attached to surfaces of aluminum hydroxide particles, the calcium hydroxide particles have a particle diameter of 3-10 μm , the aluminum hydroxide particles have a particle diameter of 50-100 μm , and the second temperature is higher than the first temperature by 50 to 150°C.

Claims 6-10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method of recovering a fluorine value from a gas, comprising:

contacting a gas including at least one fluorine-containing compound with a treatment agent at a temperature of 550 to 850 °C to ~~recover fluorine from the gas and~~ produce calcium fluoride,

wherein the at least one fluorine-containing compound comprises at least one of a fluorinated hydrocarbon and a perfluoro compound, the treatment agent comprises an agglomerate including calcium hydroxide particles attached to surfaces of aluminum hydroxide particles, the calcium hydroxide particles have a particle diameter of 3-10 μm , and the aluminum hydroxide particles have a particle diameter of 50-100 μm .

Claims 12-13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (currently amended): A method of recovering a fluorine value in a form of calcium fluoride from a gas, comprising:

contacting a gas including at least one fluorine-containing compound with a treatment agent at a first temperature of 500 to 700 °C; and

contacting the gas, treated at the first temperature, with the treatment agent at a second temperature of 650 to 800 °C,

wherein the at least one fluorine-containing compound comprises at least one of a fluorinated hydrocarbon and a perfluoro compound, said treatment agent comprises an agglomerate including calcium hydroxide particles attached to surfaces of aluminum hydroxide particles, the calcium hydroxide particles have a particle diameter of 3-10 μm , the aluminum hydroxide particles have a particle diameter of 50-100 μm , [[and]] the second temperature is higher than the first temperature by 50 to 150 °C, and the contacting of the gas at the first and second temperatures produces calcium fluoride.

Claims 15-18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (currently amended): A method of decontaminating a gas, comprising:
adding oxygen to a gas including (a) at least one of a fluorinated hydrocarbon and a perfluoro compound and (b) at least one of CO and a compound that produces CO during a decontamination of the gas;
contacting the gas with a treatment agent at a first temperature of 500 to 700 °C;
and
contacting the gas, treated at the first temperature, with the treatment agent at a second temperature of 650 to 800 °C,
wherein the treatment agent comprises an agglomerate including calcium hydroxide particles attached to surfaces of aluminum hydroxide particles, the calcium hydroxide particles have a particle diameter of 3-10 μm , the aluminum hydroxide particles have a particle diameter of 50-100 μm , [[and]] the second temperature is higher than the first temperature by 50 to 150 °C, and the contacting of the gas at the first and second temperatures produces calcium fluoride.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art does not teach or suggest a process for treating a gas containing a fluorine-containing compound using a treatment agents comprises agglomerate including calcium hydroxide particles attached to the surfaces of aluminum hydroxide particles. In the closest prior art, JP 2002-224,565, aluminum oxide and calcium hydroxide are used; however, as shown in Table (I) of the response (filed November 18, 2010), by using

aluminum hydroxide as claimed, instead of aluminum oxide, the decomposition of a fluorine-containing compound, such as CF_4 , can be carried out at lower temperature and faster space velocity while obtaining similar removal rate as in the process of JP '565. It should be noted that in Table 1, Example 1 (using aluminum oxide and calcium oxide) of JP '565 is used as the comparative example; however, the space velocity and temperature for the Example 1 in JP '565 are equally applied to Example 11 (using aluminum oxide and calcium hydroxide) because Example 11 was carried out using the same procedure as Example 1, except calcium hydroxide was used instead of calcium oxide. Example 11 as disclosed in JP '565 is considered as the "closest" prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ngoc-Yen M. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1356. The examiner can normally be reached on Part time schedule.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emily Le can be reached on (571) 272-0903. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ngoc-Yen M. Nguyen/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1734

nmn
February 8, 2011